

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA**

CHARLES SCOTT MOORE,

Petitioner,

v.

**Civil Action No. 1:13cv112
(Judge Keeley)**

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA,

Respondent.

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION

This case was initiated on March 18, 2013, when the petitioner filed a Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus and a Motion for Leave to Proceed *in forma pauperis*, together with a Prisoner Trust Fund Account. On March 20, 2013, the petitioner was granted leave to proceed *in forma pauperis*. Accordingly, this case is before the undersigned for a report and recommendation pursuant to LR PL P § 2.

I. Factual and Procedural Background

A. Petitioner's Conviction and Sentence

The petitioner was convicted in the Circuit Court of Wetzel County, West Virginia of two counts of Sexual Assault in the Third Degree. The criminal action number assigned to the case is 12-F-56. The petitioner was sentenced on December 17, 2012 to concurrent terms of 1-5 years to be followed by 5 years of supervised release. According to the Division of Corrections website, his first parole hearing is tentatively scheduled for December 17, 2013, and his projected release date is June 18, 2015.

B. Petitioner's Direct Appeal

The petitioner did not appeal his conviction.

C. Petitioner's State Habeas Petition

The petitioner has not yet filed a state habeas petition.

D. Petitioner's Federal Habeas Petition

The petitioner alleges that his conviction was obtained by a guilty plea which was unlawfully induced or not made voluntarily with an understanding of the nature of the charge and the consequences of the plea. The petitioner elaborates by noting that his lawyer did not explain the plea agreement, nor did he explain what supervised release was. The petitioner is seeking to have the provision of his sentence regarding supervised release removed. The petitioner maintains that he did not understand that one of the rules for supervised release requires that he maintain housing in the State of West Virginia during the period of his supervision. The petitioner alleges that he has no place to live in West Virginia, and when released, his only available housing is with his mother in Woodsfield, Ohio.

II. Analysis

A petition for a writ of habeas corpus is not a substitute for pursuing state judicial remedies. See 28 U.S.C. §2254(b). Therefore, a petition for writ of habeas corpus should not be entertained unless the petitioner has first exhausted his state remedies. Baldwin v. Reese, 541 U.S. 27, 29 (2004); Castille v. Peoples, 489 U.S. 346, 349, *reh'g denied*, 490 U.S. 1076 (1989). Concerns of comity dictate that the State must first be afforded a full and fair opportunity to pass upon and correct the alleged violation of its prisoners' federal rights. See Duncan v. Henry, 513 U.S. 364, 365 (1995); see also Footman v. Singletary, 978 F.2d 1207, 1210-11 (11th Cir. 1992) (comity requires that the State be given the first opportunity to address and resolve the merits of an inmate's claims).

To exhaust state remedies, a habeas petitioner must fairly present the substance of his claim to the state's highest court. Matthews v. Evatt, 105 F.3d 907 (4th Cir.), cert. denied, 522 U.S. 833 (1997).

“A claim is fairly presented when the petitioner presented to the state courts the substance of his federal habeas corpus claim. The ground relied upon must be presented face-up and squarely; the federal question must be plainly defined.” Id. at 911. “A litigant wishing to raise a federal issue can easily indicate the federal law basis for his claim in a state-court petition or brief . . . by citing in conjunction with the claim the federal source of law on which he relies or a case deciding such a claim on federal grounds, or by simply labeling the claim ‘federal.’” Baldwin v. Reese, 541 U.S. at 32; see also Howell v. Mississippi, 543 U.S. 440, 444, 125 S.Ct. 856, 859 (2005).

In West Virginia, the exhaustion of state remedies is accomplished by a petitioner raising the federal issue on direct appeal from his conviction or in a post-conviction state habeas corpus proceeding followed by an appeal to the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals. See Moore v. Kirby, 879 F. Supp. 592, 593 (S.D. W.Va. 1995); see also Bayerle v. Godwin, 825 F. Supp. 113, 114 (N.D.W.Va. 1993). A federal court may only consider those issues the petitioner presented to the state court,¹ and “[a]n applicant shall not be deemed to have exhausted the remedies available in the courts of the State, within the meaning of this section, if he has the right under the law of the State to raise, by any available procedure, the question presented.” 28 U.S.C. § 2254(c).

In addition, it is the petitioner's burden to demonstrate that he has exhausted his state judicial remedies. Breard v. Pruett, 134 F.3d 615, 619 (4th Cir.), cert. denied, 523 U.S. 371 (1998). “The exhaustion requirement is not satisfied if the petitioner presents new legal theories or factual claims for the first time in his federal habeas petition.” Id. “If state courts are to be given the opportunity

¹ Picard v. Connor, 404 U.S. 270 (1971).

to correct alleged violations of prisoners' federal rights, they must surely be alerted to the fact that the prisoners are asserting claims under the United States Constitution.

Here, the petitioner did not file a direct appeal of his state court conviction and sentence, nor has he filed a post-conviction state habeas proceeding. Therefore, the undersigned finds that the petitioner's claims are not exhausted as he still has a remedy available in State court. Thus, it is inappropriate for this Court to entertain the petitioner's federal habeas petition at this time, and the petition should be dismissed.²

III. Recommendation

For the reasons set forth in this opinion, it is recommended that the petitioner's § 2254 petition be **DISMISSED WITHOUT PREJUDICE** to the petitioner's right to renew the same following the proper exhaustion of state remedies.

Within fourteen (14) days after being served with a copy of this report and recommendation, any party may file with the Clerk of Court written objections identifying those portions of the recommendation to which objection is made and the basis for such objections. A copy of any objections should also be submitted to the Honorable Irene M. Keeley, United States District Judge. Failure to timely file objections to this recommendation will result in waiver of the right to appeal from a judgment of this Court based upon such recommendation. 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1); Thomas v. Arn, 474 U.S. 140 (1985); Wright v. Collins, 766 F.2d 841 (4th Cir. 1985); United States v. Schronce, 727 F.2d 91 (4th Cir. 1984), cert. denied, 467 U.S. 1208 (1984).

²The undersigned notes that the petitioner attached a Petition for Habeas Corpus Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2241. To the extent that the petitioner is seeking relief pursuant to § 2241, said remedy is not available to him because he cannot demonstrate that his remedy under § 2254 is inadequate or ineffective to test the legality of his detention.

The Clerk is directed to send a copy of this Report and Recommendation to the *pro se* petitioner by certified mail, return receipt requested, to his last known address as shown on the docket.

DATED: 5-29-2013



DAVID J. JOEL
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE